



ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the year 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Eton Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1943, which in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, has been restricted to essential matters, more particularly the compilation of figures for record purposes. The Minister has also drawn attention to the importance, on grounds of national security, of not publishing any figures from which the local population may be deduced. Such figures in this report are therefore strictly confidential to members of the Council and the Government departments concerned.

SECTION A.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate, Mid Year 1943) - 39,690.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

Total .....	689	Male	342	Female	347
Legitimate .....	647	"	318	"	329
Illegitimate .....	42	"	24	"	18

Birth rate per 1,000 population .....	17.35
National rate .....	16.5

Still Births.

Total .....	16	Male	11	Female	5
Legitimate .....	16	"	11	"	5
Illegitimate .....	nil.	"	nil.	"	nil.

Still Birth rate per 1,000 population .....	0.4
National rate .....	0.51

Deaths.

Total .....	422	Male	204	Female	218
-------------	-----	------	-----	--------	-----

Death rate per 1,000 population .....	10.6
National rate .....	12.1

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth	(a) From sepsis .....	0
	(b) From other causes	2

Death rates from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 Total Births:-

(a) From sepsis .....	0.0	National rate .....	0.73)
(b) From other causes	2.8	" "	1.56) *
(c) Total .....	2.8	" "	2.29)

\*Including abortion.

Deaths of Infants under One year of age.

Total .....	28	Male	17	Female	11
Legitimate .....	24	"	14	"	10
Illegitimate ....	4	"	3	"	1

Death rate of Infants under One year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births .....	40.6
National rate .....	49.0

Deaths from Measles					
(all ages)	Male	1	Female	Nil.	Total 1
Deaths from Whooping Cough					
(all ages)	Male	Nil.	Female	1	Total 1
Deaths from Diarrhoea					
(under 2)	Male	Nil.	Female	2	Total 2

	Causes of Death	M	F
	ALL CAUSES	204	218
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-
2.	Measles	1	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	-	1
5.	Diphtheria	-	-
6.	Influenza	5	2
7.	Encephalitis lethargica	-	-
8.	Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	10	4
10.	Other tuberculous diseases	3	1
11.	Syphilitic diseases	1	-
12.	Poliomyelitis and encephalitis	-	-
13.	Cancer, malignant disease	33	35
14.	Diabetes	1	-
15.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	16	33
16.	Heart disease	49	70
17.	Other circulatory diseases	2	4
18.	Bronchitis	5	10
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	14	8
20.	Other respiratory diseases	2	4
21.	Duodenal and gastric ulcer	1	2
22.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	-	2
23.	Appendicitis	3	2
24.	Digestive diseases	4	6
25.	Acute and chronic nephritis	6	3
26.	Puerperal sepsis	-	-
27.	Other puerperal causes	-	2
28.	Premature birth	6	1
29.	Congenital malformations, birth injuries, and Infant diseases	6	6
30.	Road traffic accidents	5	3
31.	Suicide	1	1
32.	Other violence	5	2
33.	All other causes	25	16

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES - SECTION B.

The following Tables show the total notified cases of Infectious Diseases during the past 8 years, the monthly incidence, age groups and incidence in the various parishes.

TABLE I.

	Total Noti- fied 1943.	Admit. to Hosp.	Deaths.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.
Small Pox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	69	50	-	52	48	93	54	40	53	40
Diphtheria	4	4	-	3	7	22	11	19	7	3
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal										
Pyrexia	26 <sup>6</sup>	2	-	16	9	2	5	7	7	3
Pneumonia	30	1	1	4	15	19	5	13	14	6
Erysipelas	5	2	-	14	6	7	10	9	6	9
Cerebro-Spinal										
Meningitis	1	1	-	6	6	10	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis										
& Encephalitis	1	1	-	2	18	8	-	-	2	-
Measles*	592	15	1	119	515	354	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough*	71	3	1	55	192	16	6			

\*Notifiable from October 1939.

<sup>6</sup>22 of these occurred at the Fulmer Chase Maternity Home and 1 at the Collinswood Maternity Home, Farnham Common.

TABLE II.

Showing Monthly incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	3	2	3	2	4	11	5	4	6	8	10	11
Diphtheria	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal												
Pyrexia	-	-	2	2	2	3	1	-	1	5	7	3
Pneumonia	5	3	7	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	10
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Cerebro-Spinal												
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis &												
Encephalitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	34	72	180	156	45	87	18	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	4	4	2	7	23	8	6	3	4	4	2

TABLE III.

Showing Cases notified in Various Age Groups.

	Total all Ages.	0-4.	5-14.	15-24.	25-44.	45-64.	65 upwards.
Scarlet Fever	69	16	41	5	6	1	-
Diphtheria	4	-	-	1	3	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal							
Pyrexia	26	-	-	4	22	-	-
Pneumonia	30	3	9	-	6	4	8
Erysipelas	5	-	-	1	-	4	-
Cerebro-Spinal							
Meningitis	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis &							
Encephalitis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	592	175	383	27	7	-	-
Whooping Cough	71	37	34	-	-	-	-



TABLE IV.

Showing Cases of Infectious Diseases  
occurring in each District in the Area.

	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneu- monia	Ery- sipelas	Cerebro- Spinal Fever	Poli- myelitis & enceph.	Measles	Whooping Cough
Burnham	10	1	-	1	3	-	1	-	65	19
Datchet	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	7
Denham	9	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	10	2
Dorney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farnham	5	-	-	1 <sup>x</sup>	10	-	-	-	40	5
Fulmer	1	1	-	22 <sup>p</sup>	2	-	-	-	-	1
Gerrards Cross	8	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	75	13
Hedgerley	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	16	2
Horton	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Iver	13	-	-	1	7	1	-	1	179	12
Stoke Poges	11	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	35	3
Taplow	1	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	69	1
Wexham	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	-
Wraysbury	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	6
TOTAL	69	4	-	26	30	5	1	1	592	71

<sup>x</sup>At Collinswood Maternity Home, Farnham Common.

<sup>p</sup>At Fulmer Chase Maternity Home, Fulmer.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Table showing New Cases and Mortality  
during 1943.

Age Periods	NEW CASES from Notifications				DEATHS				NEW CASES from Death Returns			
	Respira- tory		Non-Respira- tory		Respira- tory		Non-Respira- tory		Respira- tory		Non-Resp- iratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
5	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	3	3	-	-	1	2	-	-	1
25	-	2	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	2	-	-
35	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45	6	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
55	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	10	6	5	4	10	4	3	1	5	3	2	1

Death rate from Tuberculosis per 1,000 population - .46.

## SECTION B.

### THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.

A study of the Vital Statistics shows that the general health of the district has been very good and that the rates compare very favourably with those of the country generally.

The birth rate of 17.35 per 1,000 shows an increase over previous years, the corresponding figures for the past 5 years being 15.4, 13.9, 14.2, 15.4 and 15.1. The national rate for 1943 was 16.5.

The death rate of 10.6 per 1,000 has remained the same for the past 3 years; the rates for 1940, 1939 and 1938 being 12.1, 9.35 and 10.05. The national rate for 1943 was 12.1.

The Infantile Mortality rate of 40.6 is 8.3 below the national rate - rates for the previous 5 years were 30.1, 42.9, 58.2, 37 and 30.04.

With the exception of Measles the incidence of infectious diseases compares very favourably with the national rates. The rate per thousand of the population for the Eton Rural District and England and Wales is set out below:-

	<u>Eton Rural District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Scarlet Fever	1.7	3.01
Diphtheria	0.1	0.88
Typhoid Fever	0.0	0.01
Para-typhoid Fever	0.0	0.01
Pneumonia	0.75	1.34
Erysipelas	0.12	0.31
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.025	0.08
Measles	14.9	9.88
Whooping Cough	1.8	2.54

4 cases of Diphtheria occurred compared with 3 in 1942. and 7 in 1941. All were adults. 94% of the School children in the district have now been immunised against Diphtheria and 35% of the children under 5. School children are immunised at the Schools and two Clinics are held weekly at the Health Centre, Burlington Road, Slough, on Thursdays at 9.30 a.m. and Fridays at 2.15 p.m. at which any child may attend for immunisation. The former Clinic is provided by the County Council and children under 5 years of age may also be immunised under the County Council scheme at the various Welfare Centres in the district.

69 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified compared with 52 for the previous year and 48 in 1941. The cases were spread fairly evenly throughout the year. 50 were admitted to Hospital and all were of the prevailing mild type.

1 case of Cerebro-Spinal Fever occurred - a member of His Majesty's Forces. He was treated in a local Military Hospital.

1 case of Polio-encephalitis in a woman aged 25 occurred at Iver. She was treated at the Cippenham Isolation Hospital and made a complete recovery.

592 cases of Measles and 71 of Whooping Cough were notified. One death was recorded from each disease. Preventive inoculation against Whooping Cough, which was commenced in 1942, has been discontinued as published results and my own experience have shown that it has at present very little value in the prevention of this disease and at the same time there was evidence to show that it had a deleterious effect on the acceptances by parents of immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year the following specimens from the Eton Rural District were examined at the Town Hall Laboratory:-

For Diphtheria Bacilli .. .. .	93
For Haemolytic Streptococci.. .. .	31
For Vincent's Angina .. .. .	14
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli.. .. .	43
Blood for Widal reaction.. .. .	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid .. .. .	1
Faeces for Typhoid, Dysentery, etc.	12
For Gonococci .. .. .	3
Water samples .. .. .	23
Milk samples:-	
Pasteurised Milk .. .. .	12
Phosphatase Test .. .. .	9

### SECTION C.

Salvage Arrangements. Arrangements for the collection of salvage continued mainly as for 1942. The following figures show the salvage collected and sold during 1943, which shows a decrease of approximately 35% in weight and 31% in value as compared with the previous year:-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>£.</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
Paper	257	13	1,138	10.	-
Black scrap	54	6	32	15.	-
Bottles and jars	32	3	66	15.	-
Baled tins	56	7	67	10.	-
Rubber	10	12	31	10.	-
Mixed Metal	1	9	24	15.	-
Rags	15	15	210	5.	-
Bones	7	11	36	5.	-
Miscellaneous	1	1	8	-.	-
	<u>436</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>£1,616</u>	<u>5.</u>	<u>-</u>



Meat Inspection. 154 visits were made to slaughterhouses. The following table gives details of the number of animals inspected after slaughter and the number found diseased:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number slaughtered	941	322	1,476	4,485	433
Number examined	941	322	1,476	4,485	433
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	2	2	11	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	105	9	13	46	28
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	11.16	3.42	1.02	1.28	7.39
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	7	-	-	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	173	40	-	-	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	18.49	14.6	-	-	4.85

The following quantities of food were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

150 tins of Pork Luncheon Meats (495 lbs.)  
 17 tins of Pork Luncheon Sausage (42 lbs.)  
 273 tins of Corned Beef (572 lbs.)  
 18 tins of Corned Mutton (82 lbs.)  
 217 lbs. of Imported Beef  
 21 lbs. of Imported Pork  
 30 lbs. of Pork Sausages  
 142 lbs. of Bacon.  
 20 stone of Wet Fish  
 5 stone of Smoked Fish  
 96 tins of Fish.  
 2 tins of Fish Roll  
 181 lbs. of Cheese  
 77 lbs. of Chocolate  
 201 tins of Evaporated Milk.  
 83 tins of Fruit  
 92 tins of Vegetables  
 21 tins of Soup  
 5 tins of Jam (14 lbs.)  
 3 jars of Marmalade (21 lbs.)  
 1 Box of Eggs.

Milk. Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, the following licences were issued:-

Dealers to sell T.T. Milk (including Supplementary)	13
Dealers to sell Pasteurised Milk .. .. .	10
Dealers to sell Accredited Milk .. .. .	1
To bottle T.T. Milk .. .. .	1
To pasteurise Milk.. .. .	1

12 samples of Pasteurised milk were examined in the Town Hall Laboratory. One failed to conform to the prescribed test which was due to a temporary defect in the Pasteurising plant. A repeat sample proved satisfactory.

Water Supplies. Four water Companies provide main supplies throughout the greater part of the district. These supplies have been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. The following table shows the estimated proportion of houses in the District, according to Parishes, which are not on the main supply. It will be seen that with the exception of Wraysbury the majority are on the main supply. Shortly before the War a questionnaire was sent to all residents in Wraysbury asking if they would be willing to connect to the main if this were provided. As the majority were opposed to this the matter was not proceeded with.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Estimated no. of Houses</u>	<u>Estimated no. without Main supply</u>	<u>Percentage without Main supply</u>	<u>Water Undertaking supplying Parish</u>
BURNHAM	1,500	21	1.4	Burnham Water Co.
DATCHET	880	12	1.36	Slough Borough Council's Supply.
DENHAM	1,210	7	0.57	Rickmansworth Water Co.
DORNEY	150	20	13.3	Burnham Water Co.
FARNHAM ROYAL	620	1	0.16	Burnham Water Co. and Slough Borough Council's supply.
FULMER	125	2	1.6	Rickmansworth and Slough Borough Council's supply.
GERRARDS CROSS	1,055	-	-	Rickmansworth and Amersham Supplies
HEDGERLEY	145	5	3.4	Rickmansworth and Burnham Supplies
HORTON	240	31	12.9	Rickmansworth and Slough B. Council
IVER	2,250	9	0.4	Rickmansworth and Slough B. Council.
STOKE POGES	610	5	0.82	Slough B. Council
TAPLOW	380	27	7.1	Burnham Water Co.
WEXHAM	320	14	4.37	Slough B. Council
WRAYSBURY	900	522	58.0	Rickmansworth Water Co.

V.A.T. SPONG.

Medical Officer of Health.